

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, as follows:

Materials which may be contained in the spherical molding sand of the present invention as components in addition to the major components, include, for example, metal oxides such as CaO, MgO, Fe₂O₃, TiO₂, K₂O and Na₂O. These are derived from, for example, raw materials used as starting materials described later. When CaO and MgO are contained, the total content of these compounds is preferably at most 5 % by weight from the viewpoint of improvement in ~~fire-resistant~~ fire-resistance. When Fe₂O₃ and TiO₂ are contained, the content of each is preferably at most 5 % by weight. The content of Fe₂O₃ is more preferably at most 2.5 % by weight, even more preferably at most 2 % by weight. When K₂O and Na₂O are contained, the total content of these compounds is preferably at most 3 % by weight, more preferably at most 1 % by weight.